

# T Lackland TALESPINNER

Team Lackland...Fit AEF Warriors...Training the Best, Being the Best

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## IN BRIEF

### Free Speedway tickets

The ITT office has free tickets that it's giving away for the Casino 500 Indy Race, which will be held June 9 at the Texas Motor Speedway. The tickets will be given away on a first-come, first-served basis.

### Amistad Mixer tonight

The Inter-American Air Forces Academy at Lackland AFB will sponsor the Amistad Mixer today, 6 p.m., at the Gateway Club. The mixer introduces IAAFA students to families interested in sponsoring them during their stay at Lackland, which lasts anywhere from three to 16 weeks.

IAAFA students are very interested in the American way of life. Sponsorship assists in understanding American customs, attitudes and values. Sponsors also learn about different cultures and develop lasting memories and friendships with the students from Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean.

## INSIDE THIS WEEK

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### Lackland boasts best facilities

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An Air Force Academy cadet ends his Air Force career prematurely for taking and selling Ecstasy. Page 4

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### Air Force at a 'Crossroads'

Marking its one-year anniversary, the Air Force's official family and community web site continues to be a valuable resource for Air Force personnel and their family members. Page 8

### Texas Guard defends Medina

Texas Air National Guard members use the Lackland Air Force Base Training Annex for training they can't perform on their unit's site during a normal training weekend. Page 9

### Meals Rarely Eaten

The Army's Natick Lab is fielding new rations that will have airmen cleaning their 'pouches'. Page 12

## Medical Wing holds Founders' Day events

The 59th Medical Wing conducted its annual Founders' Day celebration last Friday, offering various sporting events for the almost 5,000-person wing. Participants vied for medals in sports from basketball to volleyball and also enjoyed free lunch at Stillman Park.

First, second, and third place medals were presented to winners of more than 20 different events, many including multiple categories.

Commander's Trophy points were awarded for each game, resulting in the 59th Medical Operations Group winning the overall trophy.

"Founders' Day is always a huge undertaking," said one of the event coordinators, Master Sgt. Gordon Hanson, NCO-in-charge of the Dental Laboratory Flight. "But it's all worth it because it's a great opportunity for our staff to have some fun and friendly competition."

Some of the events included basketball, billiards, bowling, chess, cycling, dominoes, golf, horseshoes, racquetball, Scrabble, soccer, softball, tennis, volleyball and a Volksmarch.



Photo by Yolanda Hunter

A mother and son have fun in the sun during the 59th Medical Wing's annual Founders' Day celebration May 25.

## New program offers more choices to separating, re-enlisting airmen

by Staff Sgt. Amy Parr

*Air Force Print News*

WASHINGTON — Airmen will soon have a new way to re-enlist, offering them more control over separations and retirements and possibly bringing more money into the pockets of those eligible for bonuses.

Upon implementation of the Air Force's Military Personnel Data System Modernization program, tentatively set for the beginning of June, airmen re-enlisting will fall under the Full Enlistment Program.

Full enlistment will allow airmen to specify the number of years and months they wish to re-enlist. They must re-enlist for a minimum of four years and a maximum of six. This program allows re-enlistment to high-year-tenure, using a combination of yearly and monthly increments. Senior airmen may not exceed their high-year-of-tenure, and those eligible to retire may not exceed their HYT plus one month.

The program also has another major change from the current system in that airmen are required to fulfill their entire re-enlistment contract, said Master Sgt. Mai Pederson, chief of enlisted skills management.

"Under the current program, any unserved obligation from the previous enlistment contract is absorbed within the new contract. Full enlistment will require airmen to add any unserved obligation to their re-enlistment contract," she said. "This revised re-enlistment policy requires re-enlistees to fulfill all unserved contractual periods along with their new re-enlistment contract."

For example, if more than 29 days remain until an airman's date of separation, the period will be counted as one month. If 29 days or less remain, the days will not be added to the new contract. If an airman's date of separation is July 15, and the airman decides to re-enlist May 1 for four years, the airman's remaining obligated service is two months and 15 days. The airman's new period of re-enlistment will be four years and two months because the remaining 15 days

are less than 29 days and are therefore not included.

If this same airman was eligible for a Selective Re-enlistment Bonus and re-enlisted for four years and two months, the new SRB would be paid for four years because the airman was already paid for the two months in the previous re-enlistment. The two months of obligated service would not be recouped because it would be served in the new contract.

This program was developed to help improve the current retention situation, Pederson said.

Airmen may re-enlist under the current system until MILMOD implementation, after which they must use the Full Enlistment Program.

The Air Force has been reviewing its force, stability and sustainment policies. It has found artificial constraints — combined with falling retention rates — have made a significant impact on its ability to maintain a viable force, said personnel officials at the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base. They added that the future Air Force depends on people completing their obligated periods of service. The Full Enlistment Program was created to help maximize that investment.

The re-enlistment window has also been expanded from three months before the estimated time-in-service date to 12 months. This was changed to allow second term and career airmen more flexibility on re-enlistment dates.

"This (system) gives airmen more control over their careers by allowing them to re-enlist in a combination of yearly and monthly increments," Sergeant Pederson said. "Under the Full Enlistment (Program), eligible airmen can combine their re-enlistment years and months to match their retirement date in one selection."

The program will give airmen more control over their careers and allow them to maximize their SRB entitlements, AFPC officials said.

For more information on the Full Enlistment Program, people can contact the military personnel flight at 671-4177 or the re-enlistments section at 671-2043.

# Special people aid grieving families

By Tech. Sgt. R.R. Becerril

*Air Force Print News*

WASHINGTON—The Air Force's survivor assistance program puts family members affected by tragedy in touch with one person who is a liaison between the family and base agencies.

Called a family liaison officer, his or her primary role in the survivor assistance program is to ensure information is provided to surviving family members.

"The program is geared toward everyone who is impacted by a tragedy, whether it be an aircraft accident, a car or motorcycle accident, or suicide," said Col. Harry Mamaux, chief of the Air Force Survivor Assistance Program.

The survivor assistance program has a two-fold mission, said the colonel. "One is to raise awareness of commanders at all levels so that they are prepared for a potential tragedy and, more importantly, they are prepared and sensitive to take care of the needs of family members, he said. "Secondly, we provide training and assistance to our family liaison officers."

The FLO program formally kicked off in 1998 and has expanded since then across the service. Colonel Mamaux said he briefs the program throughout the year to incoming wing and group commanders. In turn, many go back to their installations and review their plans and make advance preparations, and, if accidents or deaths occur, they may have appointed FLOs already in place.

"The program has worked extremely well," he said. The FLOs are volunteers and report directly to the wing commander. They can be either officer or enlisted, reserve, guard or civilian.

"In many cases, family members may not be really familiar with the military, so the FLO will assist them in conducting benefits-related business with various agencies, such as personnel, family support center or veterans affairs," Mamaux said.

"I look on the FLO as an interpreter or gatekeeper," he said. "The officer can be beneficial in setting up appointments and ensuring the family gets in touch with the appropriate experts. The FLO also relays information about the accident to the families throughout the investigation and to its conclusion.

"We want to make sure we take care of these families over the long term," Colonel Mamaux said. "All too often, accidents happen, a memorial service is held, the family leaves the base and goes to 'hometown, America' and they're forgotten. We don't want that to happen.

"So part of the FLO's challenge is to maintain contact with the family, throughout the accident investigation and through the one-year memorial period, helping ensure the family has everything they need," he said.

"The briefings and responsibilities still remain with the experts in the agencies. All the FLO should know is there are some people and agencies that can help the family and it is (his or her) job to ensure the family gets the information they need," Colonel Mamaux said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Seyer

**Members of the Air Force Honor Guard render full military honors during funeral services held on July 11, 1998, at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in south St. Louis County honoring 1st Lt. Michael Blassie. The Blassie family finally laid Michael to rest on Saturday after 14 years of being unidentified.**

Once a FLO is appointed, he or she completes a training course and is briefed by representatives from various base agencies and services.

For Master Sgt. Paul King, a fighter aircraft superintendent at Randolph Air Force Base, the biggest challenge of being a family liaison officer is keeping the emotions under control, which he says is especially difficult "if you know the deceased."

The senior NCO said he volunteered to serve as a FLO. "A chief master sergeant who I worked with was the FLO for our organization and told me more about the program," he said. When the chief left, Sergeant King volunteered for the position.

For Sergeant King, the call to service came all too soon. "A co-worker in my office was killed in a motor vehicle mishap while our unit was on temporary duty.

"My role started as family members arrived from out of town," Sergeant King said, "to ensure their needs were met. I introduced them to the different individuals on base who would take care of all the arrangements such as casualty and mortuary affairs. I coordinated meetings and took notes to help the family digest the information in order to make the multitude of decisions that they were required to make.

"My whole focus was to be there for the family in whatever capacity they needed. I coordinated with the family

for the memorial service and communicated their desires with the base chaplains. I even went to the residence and fixed a front door lock," he said.

Sergeant King said the most rewarding part of his duties was knowing he touched the lives of other people. "You are the last impression families have of the Air Force and the military of our nation," he said. "Many families consider the military as the member's second family as (the member) spends most of (his or her) career away from home. It's very gratifying to see how the two come together to deal with a tragedy and show how special every Air Force member is."

"The bottom line is this is the right thing to do, and the right thing for the Air Force to do as an institution to assist family members who have lost loved ones," Colonel Mamaux said. "The right thing to do is provide family members with a single person they can go to instead of trying to figure out who on base to ask. They can call the FLO and it is the FLO's job to take care of them and get them to the right person who can provide the assistance they need. And it's working out really well."

Colonel Mamaux said family members may also call the survivor assistance program's toll-free number for assistance, (877) 872-3435 or go online to <http://survivorassistance.afsv.af.mil>



# AETC lauds Lackland for its facilities

By April Parr

Talespinner Staff writer

Lackland has been recognized at the command level for all of its hard work in keeping its facilities looking their best. The base received the Air Education and Training Command Facility Excellence Award for 2001.

And Col. Ken Smith, 37th Support Group commander, said the 37th Civil Engineer Squadron had much to do with the accomplishment.

"I am extremely proud of the men and women of the 37th Civil Engineer Squadron," he said. "In spite of the pending A-76 decision and the transition of Kelly Air Force Base and its closure, these tireless professionals keep our beautiful base running 24-7."

And Lt. Col. Gordon Green, 37th CES commander, is proud of his people as well as the rest of the base community that helped keep the facilities top-notch.

"It's nice to have our efforts recognized," said Colonel Green. "Especially in view of the challenges presented by A-76 and BRAC preparation. The base population deserves a pat on the back for their care of facilities, their self-help efforts and ownership pride."

The base was judged in appearance in five areas: occupant care of facilities, ownership pride, self-help projects, facility condition and general grounds maintenance.



Courtesy photo

This "aerial" shows some of the facilities that helped earn Lackland the AETC Facility Excellence Award for 2001.

nance. The IG inspectors looked at more than 300 facilities on Lackland in six different categories: dormitories and technical training facilities, operational facilities, logistics buildings, community support, services and CE-operated facilities. Each building was given a numeric rating,

and the total sum of those ratings decided the base ranking. Lackland came out on top. The Team Lackland effort between occupants and workers alike made it possible for the base to surpass all others, according to the colonels.

"It really takes everyone on this base

working together to help maintain our facilities," said Colonel Smith.

"During these fiscally lean years, everyone plays a role. But it took the superb corps of professionals found in the 37th Civil Engineer Squadron to really make it happen."

## Lackland Marine earns commission

By CWO-3 Abel Galaviz

Marine Detachment

Sgt. Christopher M. Baker of Cincinnati, Ohio, took advantage of an opportunity available to all enlisted Marines. That opportunity is to apply through several different programs for consideration to go from the enlisted ranks to a commissioned officer. Applying for the Enlisted Commissioning Program, Sergeant Baker was one of 26 enlisted Marines recently selected to attend Marine Corps Officer Candidates School at Quantico, Va.

Sergeant Baker, a military police dog handler, assigned to the Marine Corps Detachment, serving as an instructor with the 341st Training Squadron, upon notification of his selection, said, "This is a dream come true."

He credits his desire to become a Marine Corps offi-

cer to the strong professional impressions imprinted on him from officers whom he has served for, past and present.

"I've wanted to be a Marine Corps officer from early in my career," said Sergeant Baker. "I want to take advantage of leadership opportunities and command Marines."

Sergeant Baker will be leaving for Officer Candidate School in September. The school's motto is "*Ductus Exemplo*" (Leadership by Example), and is a 10-week course. Until September, Sergeant Baker will continue to instruct military working dog handlers, some of whom will be Marines and replace him in the Marine Corps military working dog handlers field.

Any free time that Sergeant Baker may find himself with will be spent with his wife, Josette, and their daughter, Makaileh.



Courtesy photo

Sgt. Christopher Baker is one of only 26 Marines selected in the Corps for commissioning.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Steve Elliott

## Take a flying leap

**AHMED AL JABER AIR BASE, Southwest Asia (AFPN) — Staff Sgt. David Risnear, a combat controller and high altitude, low open jumpmaster with the Air Force Special Operations Detachment here, catches some air after jumping from the back of an MC-130E Combat Talon. The HALO jump included people from the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, AFSOD, and others from Camp Doha.**

## Cryptologic Group names quarterly award winners

Air Force Materiel Command's Cryptologic Systems Group on "Security Hill" recently selected its Junior and Senior Civilians of the Quarter.

Jerry L. Britton, a WL-7 in the Communications Security Accounting Branch, was named Junior Civilian of Quarter. During the second quarter, Britton trained 17 CPSG employees on the newly implemented wholesale Standard Base Supply System test initiative.

Cynthia Higdon, a GG-12, was chosen as the group's Category II Senior Civilian of the Quarter. She leads a team of five system administrators, ranging in grade from GG-7 to GG-11, and is responsible for developing, interpreting, implementing and distributing regulatory guidance for logistics data systems which are used to manage worldwide mission support programs.

Guy E. Aguirre, GG-13, is Category III Senior Civilian of the Quarter. He is Signals Intelligence Logistics Division



chief. Mr. Aguirre manages the National Security Agency Consolidated Signals Intelligence Support Activity field support program, where he directs the worldwide inter-intelligence agency logistics management support for SIGINT projects within the cryptologic community.

CPSG, commanded by Col. Michael J. Reed, became a part of Team Lackland on April 1 as a result of Kelly base realignment.

# First shirt recalls how drinking, driving kills

By Chief Master Sgt. Johnny Wilford  
*Fairchild AFB, Wash.*

He had two beautiful little girls, he loved sports, and he was one of the most popular people in the squadron. But drinking and driving is a lethal combination that doesn't play favorites.

Nine years ago in March 1991, I was a first sergeant assigned to a medical group overseas. My family and I were cooking out and enjoying our time together.

As we sat down to eat, my beeper went off. I looked at the number and immediately recognized it as the law enforcement desk. The security policeman said, "Sergeant Wilford, we just got notified there has been a wreck off base involving one of your squadron members. The witnesses said there are injuries." I told my wife I had to go; one of my troops had been in an accident.

The location of the accident was about 20 minutes off base, so I had time to think on the way to the scene.

I recall praying that my troop wasn't hurt too badly. I knew the location of the accident that the security policeman had given was notorious for dangerous curves and steep hills. I also found myself trying to recall everything I knew about the noncommissioned officer involved in this wreck.

John was a staff sergeant, recently divorced, with two little girls. He loved sports, and we played together on our squadron softball team. In fact, every Monday he would stop by to discuss our previous week's games.

As I got close to the scene, I could see emergency lights flashing and

policemen trying to keep the vehicles moving. A small crowd had gathered beside the road on a curve. I parked and ran to the crowd yelling, "Where is he?" No one said anything; they just pointed down the hill.

As I turned to head down the incline, I recognized two of our airmen from the medical group standing by one of our ambulances at the scene. One of them said, "It's John, and it's bad!" Those words echoed in my mind as I went down the hill. About 200 feet down, I found John's car wedged up against a tree. I looked inside.

John wasn't there. He had been thrown from the vehicle. I looked further down the hill, and I could see flashlights and hear voices. "God, let one of those voices be John's," I whispered.

I stumbled on down to where the flashlights were, and I could see two figures against the rocks. I could make out one person kneeling beside someone lying in a fetal position on the rocks. I recognized the voice.

"Doc, is that you?" I asked. He responded, "Shirt, John's dead." I don't know why, but I leaned over John and started yelling at him, "John why did you do this?" Then I sat on a rock beside John and cried as I waited on our medics to get the equipment into the ravine to get his body out.

It took us a couple of hours to get John out of that ravine. We had to carefully guide the emergency basket as it went up the hill to keep it straight. Around that basket that night were the section commander, the doctor, two medics, an OSI agent from the base and me. All of us knew John, and it would take a long time to come to grips with that night.



Courtesy of AETC's Torch Magazine

Later, as I pulled back into my driveway, I tried to collect myself before I walked into the house.

I opened the door, and my wife ran to me with a shocked look on her face. I didn't realize my shirt was covered in John's blood from getting him out of the ravine.

An investigation revealed that John had been at a beach party all afternoon drinking and then decided to drive. Some friends offered him a ride, but he assured them he was fine. The autopsy revealed that John's blood alcohol was .21, twice the legal limit. That night and the weeks that followed were some of the saddest times of my military career.

Our squadron was torn apart because everyone loved John. I found myself trying to be strong for the squadron, while hurting so badly

inside. Without a doubt, the hardest thing I have ever had to do was write the condolence letters to his little girls telling them about their father.

Everyone attended his memorial service on our base, and the healing process began slowly. It's taken me a long time to put this tragedy on paper, but I know Staff Sgt. John Keller would want me to.

Our message needs to be loud and clear: Don't drink and drive! Call Airmen Against Drunk Driving, call a friend, call a supervisor, or call a taxi. Life is too precious, and it's not just you that gets hurt, it's also your family and friends who care about you.

Finally, if you see people drinking and they insist they can still drive, don't listen to them. Take care of your teammates by taking their keys—you may be saving their lives. *(Torch Magazine)*

## Cadet sentenced for drug use, distribution

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AFPN) — Cadet 2nd Class Matthew N. Garchow was sentenced by court-martial May 23 to confinement for 10 months, dismissal and forfeiture of all pay and allowances after he pleaded guilty to using Ecstasy, ketamine, and attempting to distribute LSD.

Garchow is expected to be confined at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

The case will be reviewed by the general court-martial convening authority, Lt. Gen. John R. Dallager.

## Pilot error caused bombing deaths in Kuwait

U.S. Central Command officials have determined pilot error was the main cause of the deadly March 12 bombing accident at Kuwait's Udairi Range.

A Navy F/A-18 Hornet pilot incorrectly identified an observation post as his target and dropped three 500-pound bombs that killed five Americans and a New Zealander and injured 11 others. Six Kuwaiti service members were among the injured.

Immediately after the accident, Army Gen. Tommy R. Franks, CENTCOM commander in chief, appointed Marine Lt. Gen. Michael P. DeLong to lead an investigation. General DeLong's team reported their findings to the admiral April 7. Release of the results was

delayed until the families of those killed were given the findings.

The report identifies pilot error as the main cause of the accident, but with three contributing actors:

► The forward air controller airborne pilot used nonstandard terminology when speaking to the pilot on the bombing run.

► The ground forward air controller lost situational awareness at a critical point, reducing the time he had to call for an "abort" of the mission.

► Conditions at Udairi Range made the observation post and the target difficult to distinguish.

According to the report, the pilot, Cmdr. David O. Zimmerman, was required to transmit, "Target in sight; friendlies in sight," before

he'd have received a "cleared hot" command freeing him to drop his bombs. He apparently never made that call and released his ordnance before being given the "cleared hot" command, the report states.

The forward air controller airborne pilot, Navy Lt. Patrick T. Mowles, contributed to the accident by telling the pilot, "good nose position," not a standard transmission for this type of mission.

"This resulted in a 'warm fuzzy' (false situational awareness) by the [ground forward air controller] and may have resulted in a 'warm fuzzy' by the incident pilot during his attack," the report states.

The complete report can be downloaded from [www.centcom.mil](http://www.centcom.mil)

## Blotter

*(Editor's note: Crime doesn't stop at the fence surrounding Lackland. It's up to Lacklanders to make a difference. You can help "take a bite out of crime" by reporting suspicious activities and people. This column will increase your awareness and encourage you to take positive steps to stop crime.)*

The following incidents, reported by the 37th Security Forces Squadron, took place during the past week at Lackland.

► Five minor and one major traffic accidents were reported last week. Only minor injuries were reported.

► Two civilians were detained at the gate for outstanding warrants and later turned over to San Antonio police.

► In three separate incidents, two civilians and a military dependent wife were detained for shoplifting at the Lackland Base Exchange.

► Three active duty members were apprehended for underage consumption of alcohol at the dormitories.

► Security forces apprehended three active duty military and one family member during a fight in the dorm.

► Somebody swiped property missing from a pop-up camper at the Outdoor Recreation Area.

► Other thefts included an air conditioning unit from base housing, two hubcaps from a vehicle parked at Wilford Hall Medical Center, an unattended and unsecured wallet and vehicle stereo items.

Those who have any information about criminal activity on Lackland Air Force Base should call the Security Forces Control Center at 671-2018. Callers may remain anonymous. To report emergencies, call 911.



Photo by Ross Day

**Sergeant Zepeda won the NDTA Instructor of the Year Award.**

## **'Loggie' locks national award**

The National Defense Transportation Association has named Staff Sgt. Nancy Zepeda, 345th Training Squadron, Outstanding Instructor of the Year.

Sergeant Zepeda was recognized not only as a topnotch instructor, but also for consistent "Outstanding" evaluation ratings and as "a talented role model. She was able to master the intricate Transportation Operational Personal Property Standard System and deliver in-depth, hands-on proficiency training to five new instructors alleviating a

critical training shortfall.

Her enthusiasm and expertise extends beyond the gates of Lackland. The sergeant was recently recognized by the San Antonio Area Girl Scouts Council for her "leadership and community service," and for training 21 new leaders and recruiting 40 future leaders. She also participated in construction of eight new Habitat for Humanity homes.

Sergeant Zepeda will accept her award at NDTA's annual awards banquet slated for Wednesday at Andrews AFB, Md.

# Commander's Action Line

Call 671-3333 [actionline@lackland.af.mil](mailto:actionline@lackland.af.mil) WHMC Action Line 292-4567

Action Line is your direct line for comments, questions, complaints and suggestions on how to make Lackland Air Force Base a better place to live and work.

Although Action Line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through the chain of command. We've provided a listing of customer service telephone numbers you can call first to address problems.

If your concerns still can't be

resolved, please call Action Line or send them via e-mail. Items of general interest may be printed in the *Talespinner*.

Your comments or questions will be recorded, so speak clearly and slowly. If you leave your name and telephone number you'll receive a return call. Having your name and number will also give us a chance to get more information, if needed, to solve the problem.



Maj. Gen. Michael N. Farage

## Key Phone Numbers

Civil Engineer	.671-2977
For housing, environmental facilities/utilities	
Services	.671-3395
(After duty hours)	.671-5650
Base Exchange	.674-6465
Chaplain	.671-4101
Commissary	.671-2561
Security Forces	.671-4123
Safety	.671-3969
Military Equal Opportunity	.671-2847
AF Harassment Hotline	.565-2949
Inspector General	.671-3347
FWA Hotline	.671-3340
Finance Office	.671-2807
Civilian Pay	.671-2549
Legal Office	.671-3361
Military Personnel	.671-3301
Civilian Personnel	.671-4118
Contracting	.671-1700
Transportation	.671-2855
Supply	.671-3831
Communications	.671-8812
WHMC/IG	.292-7424
Patient Representative	.292-6688

# Oaths help define character traits

By Lt. Col. Larry Goodwin  
12th Flying Training Wing

We all possess character traits that clearly define our actions. We work to foster those same positive traits in the people we deal with each day. We want our children to emulate good character traits. We want to be surrounded by people we can trust to make decisions according to sound principles.

In the oaths we recited upon joining the military are hidden many of these traits. Our leaders knew those defending the nation should possess these traits and formulated the oaths based on them.

During the Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress established different oaths for the enlisted members and officers of the Continental Army. The first oath under the Constitution was approved in September 1789 and applied to all commissioned officers, noncommissioned officers and privates in the service of the United States.

*"I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic..."*

The first sentence calls on us to exhibit the traits of trustworthiness and courage. The American people trust us to accept the challenges we're faced with to defend and protect the Constitution and

all our country represents. As military members, we need the courage and mental and moral strength to press forward into whatever duty we're called.

*"... that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same..."*

The second trait we display is responsibility. We exhibit commitment and dedication in that responsibility. We should be proud to serve as responsible members of the flight, squadron, group, wing, Air Force, Department of Defense and national team.

We all depend on each other to get the job done. The principle of synergy — the whole is greater than the sum of the individual parts — applies here. As we work together to perform the mission, we accomplish more than any one individual or organization can accomplish alone.

*"... and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice" or "... that I take this obligation freely, with out any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office upon which I am about to enter."*

In these two phrases from the enlisted and officer oaths, we subscribe to the traits of respect, candor and unselfishness. We are not in the military for our-



Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael T. Brown

The American Flag waves over staged vehicles from 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion during Exercise Desert Scimitar 01, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz.

selves. We are here to serve. There is always someone to whom we report. It is our duty to ensure the lawful orders we receive are carried out.

We undertake the challenge to exhibit candor, being honest in what we say and how we act. Our profession of arms leaves no room for half-truths. Complete honesty in all we do must be absolute.

These are just a few of the desirable character traits we need to emulate as members of the military. Continuously striving to develop these traits in ourselves and others will ensure continued prosperity, both personally and professionally. Character counts. It is a vital ingredient in life's recipe for success. (Courtesy AETC News Service)

# Be proud to serve the best Air Force in the world

By Senior Airman Dean Witt  
368 Recruiting Squadron Public Affairs  
Hill Air Force Base, Utah

The other day I walked into a restaurant on my way back from a school visit. There I met a man who served in the Army Air Force during World War II. He told me stories about his time in the war and in the service. He was proud of what he had done. And then he thanked me for what I do. He thanked me for serving my country.

After I left the restaurant it dawned on me. Now, I've always known that serving my country through the Air Force is a great honor for me. But I also realized that it's a privilege, too.

I think a lot of America has forgotten what patriotism is. It's really not their fault. There have been no major wars since Vietnam. The economy has been booming for a decade.

I think it's important for us to know what patriotism is. It's important for everyone in the Air Force to know.

Every time we put on this uniform we are saying that no one is going to hurt us or our families or the freedom by which we live. We are the best air and space force in the world and, considering the way wars are fought these days, we are undoubtedly the best service in the world.

All of us have our own reasons for joining the Air

Force and staying in or leaving it eventually. But, no matter what those reasons are, we all serve to continue to make this Air Force the best the world has ever seen. Whether that means putting more quality men and women in the Air Force, maintaining the jets that we use to disintegrate our enemies or doing things to ensure we all have a high quality of life, each of us works toward the same vision.

So be proud because you serve. As you all know, not just anyone can join our service. Stand tall, because without you and the hundreds of thousands serving across the globe, none of us would be free.

We are the world's protectors. No one comes close.



## Lackland TALESPINNER

Maj. Gen. Michael N. Farage.....37th TRW Commander  
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Photo by Robbin Cresswell

## Lock 'n' Load

Col. Michael "Boots" Miller, 37th Training Wing vice commander, takes aim with an MK-19 grenade launcher. His target was one of three decommissioned M-60 tanks added to the target range run by the 342nd Training Squadron at Lackland Training Annex. Tech. Sgt. Fernando Palma, a heavy weapons course instructor with the 342nd, helps the colonel zero in.

# Texas Air Guard 'defends' training annex

**By Master Sgt. Greg Ripps**

*149th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

Texas Air National Guard members are using the Lackland Air Force Base Training Annex for training they couldn't perform on their unit's site during a normal training weekend.

The 149th Security Forces Squadron can train on what is also referred to as Medina Annex with "slap flares," smoke grenades, booby traps, grenade launchers, night vision goggles and other equipment that they would otherwise have to practice with farther away.

"Training at Medina saves days of logistics," said Chief Master Sgt. Craig Folts, 149th Security Forces manager. "If we go to Camp Bullis, it takes us three days to get things ready. When we use Medina, we are able to begin training within 45 minutes after roll call at the 149th."

The cops will still go to sites such as



Photo by Senior Airman Louis Tijerina

**Senior Airman Manuel Maurico applies camouflage makeup in refresher class prior to a training exercise in "the wilds" of Lackland Training Annex.**

Camp Bullis to train in land navigation or with certain weapons. However, they can accomplish quite a bit during a Unit Training Assembly weekend at nearby Medina.

The training area is known as the

Three-Level Rib Site, which is maintained by two active duty members of the 344th Training Squadron, cadres from the 149th FW and the Air Force Reserve Command's 433rd Airlift Wing.

The site includes tents on solid floors for classrooms, barracks and a dining facility. The 149th Services Flight, which also accomplishes training at the site, provides the 149th SFS with hot meals during the weekend.

"We have everything here to do what we need to do," said Maj. Scott Parker, 149th SFS commander. "We can train into Saturday night, get a good night's sleep in the air-conditioned tents and be ready to go again early Sunday morning."

During night training May 5, 149th SFS members acquired some experience using night vision goggles to avoid booby traps set by other squadron members. Trip wires were attached to ground burst simulators that emit a lot of smoke.

"When our people are deployed as part

of the Aerospace Expeditionary Force, they are expected to hit the ground running," Chief Folts said. "At Medina, they can still make some mistakes and have time to learn from them. We want them to get hands-on experience and learn to feel comfortable with their equipment."

Major Parker noted that many long-time 149th SFS members are experienced law enforcement officers in their civilian jobs. "And we have high-caliber people coming into the unit too," he added. "They are bringing new techniques to us from technical school. So we are all learning from each other."

Although the 149th SFS has used the Lackland Training Annex site on occasion during the last four years, Major Parker would like his unit to train on it once a quarter, especially now that the 149th Fighter Wing is part of Team Lackland.

"Bivouacs like these are an important part of team building," the major said. "Everyone has something to offer."





Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott M. Ash

**Chief Master Sgt. Willie L. Davis, of the logistics transportation directorate at the Pentagon, takes the oath of enlistment May 23 in the White House East Room.**

## **Service members take oath in White House**

One hundred members from all five armed services raised their right hands May 23 and re-upped in the White House East Room.

President Bush and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld both spoke before the mass re-enlistment, with Rumsfeld telling the troops their task now is to “protect our country from the unknown, uncertain, unseen and unexpected.”

Before Army Gen. Henry Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, administered the oath, Bush said he thought it was fitting for the service members to re-enlist in the White House.

“Every major military operation of the last 200 years was set in motion at the White House,” the president said. “The circumstances have var-

ied greatly, but no president has ever had reason to doubt the ability and commitment of the American armed forces.”

The president thanked the troops for their continued commitment to America and told them the nation owes them all the support necessary to fulfill that commitment.

“I have promised never to let that support waiver, never to take you for granted,” he said. “As long as I live under this roof, our country and our military will be prepared to meet any challenge the future may bring.”

Bush also took the opportunity to thank the family members who had come to witness the ceremony. (Courtesy of AFPS)

# New rations in the works

By **Jim Garamone**

*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON— Military food has had a bad rap through the ages.

In the Revolutionary War, the menu at Valley Forge, Pa., left much to be desired. During the Civil War, many Union soldiers received rancid pork and corn meal as their only issued rations. During the Spanish-American War, soldiers and Marines called desiccated rations—essentially dried vegetables — “desecrated rations.”

More recently, service members called the initial Meals, Ready-to-Eat menus “Meals Rejected by Everybody.”

Anyone who has gone to the field lately will admit that military chow has gotten much better.

The folks behind the effort to improve rations are in the DoD Combat Feeding Program. The scientific and technological focus lately has been on reducing the weight and volume of the rations and the fuel needed to heat them,” said Gerald Darsch, joint program director.

The Combat Feeding Program is for all services but comes under the Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command in Natick, Mass.

One new meal is the first-strike ration. Its intent is to allow service members to eat on the move. “Warfighters won’t have to stop to use even a

spoon,” Mr. Darsch said. The ration prototype consists of shelf-stable pocket sandwiches, and pouches of carbohydrate-enhanced “Zapplesauce” product and Ergo high-energy drink powder.

“What we envision is the Zapplesauce being consumed directly from the pouch using a nozzle,” he said. A fitting on the Ergo pouch would connect to a troop’s ‘camelback’ water carrier — soldiers would fill the bag with water, shake it and then drink from a nozzle.

“Everything would be complete to ‘eat on the go.’ They wouldn’t have to stop in a (mobile operations in urban terrain) environment and eat in a stairway or roof when there are snipers around,” Mr. Darsch said. The ration is about half the weight and volume of a typical MRE, he said.

New items are being added to the MRE ration line for 2001. Service members will start seeing seafood jambalaya, beef enchiladas and mashed potatoes. Pork chow mein and “smoky franks” are toast.

In 2002, service members will see beefsteak with mushroom gravy, multigrain cereal, cappuccino and hamburger patties. Beefsteak and chicken with rice will disappear.

Another technology the program is examining is compressed entrées. The menu of 25 different entrées would cut the current weight of rations by 66



Photo by Gerry J. Gilmore.

**New, air-dried compressed entrées are a quarter the weight of conventional field food service meals.**

percent and their volume by 75 percent. “Compressed entrées also cost 75 percent less to make than freeze-dried items, and you get an A-ration quality product in 4 percent of the time,” Mr. Darsch said.

The Natick crew is also examining improving the quality of regular food. Regular canned food is steamed until it is sterile. All that cooking changes the taste and texture of the food.

Researchers are also looking at using electric pulses to sterilize food.

“We’ll continue working in all aspects of rations to ensure service members get the best, most nutritious food they can,” Mr. Darsch said. “Stand by. We always have something cooking.”

# Med Wing kicks off Bond drive

**By Sue Campbell**

*59th Medical Wing Public Affairs*

Lackland Air Force Base will participate in the 2001 U.S. Savings Bond campaign, running June 1-30. Squadron and group representatives will canvass all people, giving them an opportunity to buy bonds.

"Bonds are an easy, affordable way to begin saving for the future," said Tech. Sgt. Ralph Crotty, 59th Medical Wing representative. "They are simple, because it's all automatic through payroll deductions, and there are no fees or service charges involved."

I Bonds are sold at full face value. They offer a real rate of return above and beyond inflation.

Series EE Savings Bonds are



sold at half their face value and earn rates based on five-year Treasury securities. Both bonds can be purchased through payroll savings for as little as \$50 and earn interest for up to 30 years.

Interest on Savings Bonds is exempt from state and local income taxes and federal income tax can be deferred until they are cashed. They can be cashed in after six months.

"The base goal is 100 percent contact," said Sergeant Crotty. "We want to give everyone a chance to benefit from this program as we head into the 21st Century."

## 59th MDW Savings Bond Key Workers

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
59th MDW	TSgt. Ralph Crotty	292-2286
Wing Staff	Sue Campbell	292-7074
59th Med. Sup. Gp.	TSgt. Theodora Newton	292-3558
59th Surg Ops	SrA Brian Jamail	292-6801
759th Surg Ops	MSgt. Richard Tyner	292-2702
859th Surg Ops	TSgt. Ricardo Santa-Cruz	292-7079
959th Surg Ops	A1C Dawn Desimone	292-7331
59th Med Ops	SMSgt. Paul Hartmann	292-5978
759th Med Ops	Capt. Rhonda Campanella	292-6546
859th Med Ops	SSgt. Kenneth Price	292-7471
959th Med Ops	SrA Marisa Montemayor-Nieto	292-4219
59th D&T	Amn Michael P. Lopez	292-3459
759th D&T	TSgt. Joe San Nicolas	292-6174
859th D&T	SSgt. James Dorris	292-5511
959th D&T	Michael Lopez	292-5511
59th Dental	MSgt. Mayse Springsted	292-7126
59th Aerospace Med.	MSgt. Rodolfo Martinez	292-2950
59th Readiness	SSgt. Quilisha Tillmon	292-4198
59th Medical Sup	SSgt. James Hendrickson	292-2319
759th Med Sup	SrA. Andrea Vail	292-4362
59th Logistics	TSgt. Marvin Neely	292-6958
59th Clinical Research	A1C Jennifer Scharff	292-7141
59th Training	SSgt. Christy Mylar	292-7020



# Command chief process gets revamped

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The Air Force is creating a central pool of candidates for command chief master sergeant positions in an effort to streamline the selection process.

This change from a voluntary process to a more structured one has several benefits, said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Jim Finch.

"While the former process worked fairly well most of the time, it had some drawbacks and didn't encourage some of our well-qualified chiefs to apply," Chief Finch said. "By creating a manageable pool of candidates we remove the need for a formal application each time a vacancy is announced and eliminate the short-notice suspense that chiefs often faced in the past."

The selection process begins when the Air Force Personnel Center requests nominations for command chief master sergeants, Chief Finch said.

"Senior raters then identify qualified chief master sergeants who are both interested and well suited for CCM duty and recommend them as nominees," he said.

The first board will convene in July. To be eligible, chief master sergeants must have a date of rank of Oct. 1, 2000, or earlier and "must have significant supervisory and leadership

experience," Chief Finch said.

After the nominations are collected, an annual board held at AFPC will screen the nominees, creating a pool of candidates.

Once selected, they will attend an orientation to better prepare them for CCM duties and will submit their assignment preferences — which can be modified throughout the year.

Candidates will remain in the pool for two years and, if not selected for a CCM assignment, may re-compete during the next annual screening board. Each year, AFPC will determine the number of people needed to replenish the candidate pool.

As a CCM vacancy is identified, AFPC will make an announcement to all candidates, giving them enough time to adjust their assignment preferences as desired.

Chiefs currently serving as CCMs may also add their names and preferences to the candidate list if they are eligible for reassignment, he said.

Hiring commanders work directly with AFPC to get a tailored list of candidates interested in the assignment. Based on the commander's decision, the AFPC Chiefs Group will

announce the selection.

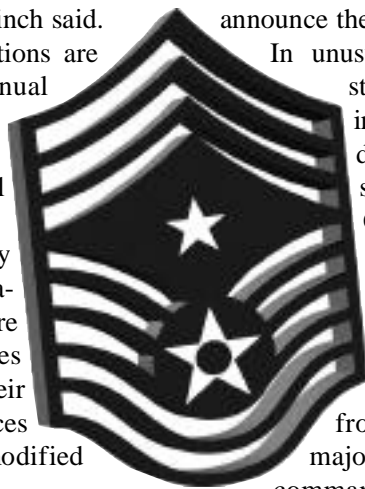
In unusual circumstances, hiring commanders may select a CCM from outside the list of candidates with the approval from their major command commander, Chief

Finch said.

"This process is more responsive to the overall needs of the Air Force, and it provides a more proactive approach for both chief master sergeants and commanders," he said.

As with any change, Chief Finch is aware that several people may be uncomfortable with this new system, and he is ready to handle questions from the field. One question that he's sure is on the mind of many is whether a candidate can be selected as a non-volunteer for a specific CCM assignment.

"While the short answer is yes, I believe the pool will be large enough that several people suited for any CCM duty will want their name on the list," he said. "Although if anyone does decline an assignment, they run the risk of being removed from the pool."



# Chapels

<b>Bahal</b>	<b>SUNDAY:</b> 2pm, BMT Chapel (1st, 3rd, & 5th Sunday of the month).
<b>Buddhist</b>	<b>SUNDAY:</b> 3pm, BMT Chapel
<b>Catholic</b>	<b>WEEKDAYS:</b> 11am WHMC Chapel noon Permanent Party Chapel <b>SATURDAY:</b> Confessions, 4:30pm Tech Training Chapel Mass, 5:30pm Tech Training Chapel <b>SUNDAY:</b> Religious Education, 9:30am Perm. Party Chapel ROTC Mass, 8am, Tech Training Chapel Mass, 11am Permanent Party Chapel Mass, 11am WHMC Chapel Spanish Mass, 9:30am Tech Training Chapel Mass, 8am, 9:30am, 11am & 12:30pm, BMT Chapel (5th week and BMT graduates/families for 1230 only) Religious Education, 8am, 9:30am, & 11am, Bldg 5725
<b>Christian Science</b>	<b>SUNDAY:</b> 1pm, BMT Chapel
<b>Church of Christ</b>	<b>SUNDAY:</b> 9am, Bldg 5200 (Across from BMT Chapel)
<b>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints</b>	<b>SUNDAY:</b> 2pm, BMT Chapel
<b>Eastern Orthodox</b>	<b>SUNDAY:</b> Confessions, 9:30am, Memorial Chapel Divine Liturgy, 10am, Memorial Chapel Religious Education, 11am, Memorial Chapel
<b>Eckankar</b>	<b>SATURDAY:</b> 3pm, BMT Chapel (1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday of the month.)
<b>Jewish</b>	<b>FRIDAY:</b> Sabbath Eve Service, 5pm, Permanent Party Chapel, Oneg Shabbat follows. <b>SUNDAY:</b> Religious Education, 11am, Permanent Party Chapel
<b>Muslim</b>	<b>SUNDAY:</b> 10am, BMT Chapel
<b>Protestant</b>	<b>SUNDAY:</b> Liturgical Service, 8am, Memorial Chapel ROTC Service, 11am, Tech Training Chapel 11am, Tech Training Chapel 8am & 9:30am, Permanent Party Chapel Gospel Service, 12:30pm, Permanent Party Chapel Children's Church, 9:30am & 12:30, Perm. Party Chapel 9:30am, WHMC Chapel Religious Education, 11am, Permanent Party Chapel 8am, 9:30am, 11am & 1230pm, BMT Chapel (5th week and BMT graduates/families for 1230 only) Religious Education, 8am, 9:30am & 11am, Bldg 5725
<b>Seventh Day Adv.</b>	<b>SATURDAY:</b> 8am, BMT Chapel
<b>Wicca</b>	<b>SATURDAY:</b> Information & Fellowship, 8am, Bldg 5725



Photo by Kenn Mann

## Bird in the hand

MCGUIRE AIR FORCE BASE, New Jersey (AFPN) — Falconer Reid Erickson lures Olympia, a 10-year-old peregrine falcon, back after a successful bird clearance flight. The Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard program at McGuire has utilized 12 falcons for the past three years.



Air Force Academy Cadet and cyclist Sam Troge (second from right) is near the head of the pack racing past the Cadet Area and Chapel May 20.

## Academy cyclists capture NCAA titles

By Staff Sgt. James A. Rush

*U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs*

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AFPN) — Sam Troge led a team of cadets to the top of NCAA Division II at the 2001 National Collegiate Road Cycling Championships held here May 19 to 21.

More than 300 cyclists from 75 colleges around the nation competed in the three-day event. Men's and women's points were combined to decide the national championship. Air Force outpaced its nearest competitor, Dartmouth University, 536 to 458.

Troge, a senior, earned the individual rider national title in the process. He took second place in the criterium race May 19 and the road race May 20 to win the omnium, or overall individual title.

Brad Ames, Dan Yousey, Matt McCorkle, Ben Vickers, Bill Danyluk, Mary Rudy, Melanie Barnes and Jen Stoltenberg joined Troge to win the team cycling title on their home course. Ames, also a senior, was fourth in the omnium competition.

Ames, Yousey and McCorkle raced with

Troge in the criterium, a 0.9-mile course where riders competed against each other and the clock. Men rode for 70 minutes and women for 50 to complete as many laps as possible reaching speeds of up to 30 mph.

Three of the top 10 men from the race are Air Force cadets. Besides Troge, Ames finished fourth and Vickers placed ninth. Rudy tied for sixth and Barnes tied for ninth among women racers.

Troge was in position to win the road race May 19, but contact with another rider resulted in a crash within sight of the finish line. The injured cadet carried his bike the rest of the way to complete the grueling 68-mile course. Lowell compares the course to the difficult mountain stages of the Tour de France. Men did seven 9.5-mile laps and women completed five, climbing 900 feet each time. Troge, McCorkle and Ames all cracked the top 10, the latter two crossing the finish line in seventh and eighth places. Rudy placed fourth, while Barnes and Stoltenberg placed 12th and 13th among the women.

Competition wrapped up May 21 with the team time trial, a 16.9-kilometer ride. Ames, Danyluk, Vickers and McCorkle won the event in 24 minutes, 26.1 seconds.



Photos by Capt. Kent Broome

More than 300 cyclists from 75 colleges around the nation burst past the start line to begin the 2001 National Collegiate Road Cycling Championships held May 19 to 21 at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.